

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SANTIA 04771 241623Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 AID-05 PC-01 MCT-01 /064 W
-----039826 241625Z /43
O 241544Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9642
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 4771

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CI
SUBJECT: RETURN OF AMBASSADOR LANDAU FOR CONSULTATION ON
LETELIER CASE -- RUMORS RIFE, LOCAL MEDIAL PLAY IT FAIRLY
STRAIGHT

REF: SANTIAGO 4765

1. APPARENTLY DUE TO FAULTY INTERNATIONAL WIRESERVE TRANSLATIONS, THERE WAS SOME INITIAL CONFUSION THE EARLY AFTERNOON OF JUNE 23 AS TO WHETHER AMBASSADOR LANDAU WAS BEING RECALLED FOR CONSULTATIONS OR PERMANENTLY. THIS QUICKLY LED TO RUMORS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD BROKEN RELATIONS, THAT ARGENTINA HAD CLOSED THE BORDER, AND THAT ALL THIS BAD NEWS WAS THE REASON SANTIAGO'S ONLY AFTERNOON PAPER, "LA SEGUNDA", DID NOT COME OUT. (THE REASON FOR THE SUSPENSION OF "LA SEGUNDA" FOR TWO DAYS WAS REPORTED REFTEL, AND HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH AMBASSADOR LANDAU'S RETURN).

2. BY THE TIME OF THE EVENING TELEVISION NEWSCASTS, WITH ASSIST FROM EMBASSY PRESS SECTION AND A FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT, LOCAL MEDIA HAD THINGS MORE OR LESS STRAIGHT. THE STORY WAS THE LEAD NEWS ITEM. SIMULTANEOUSLY, A LARGE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SANTIA 04771 241623Z

CROWD OF NEWSMEN, INCLUDING TV, WERE AT SANTIAGO'S PUDAHUEL AIRPORT ATTEMPTING TO INTERVIEW AMBASSADOR LANDAU PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE. THEY FAILED.

3. OF SANTIAGO'S FOUR MORNING NEWSPAPERS (JUNE 24): PRESTIGIOUS "EL MERCURIO" GIVES THE STORY PRIDE OF PLACE ON THE FIRST PAGE BUT A RATHER DISCREET HEADLINE, "AMBASSADOR LANDAU RECALLED FOR

CONSULTATIONS"; LARGEST CIRCULATION "LA TERCERA" HAS A SMALL BOX ON ITS TABLOID FRONT PAGE, WITH THE STORY ON PAGE 5; SENSATIONALIST "ULTIMAS NOTICIAS" HEADLINES THE STORY ON PAGE 1, "US CALLS ITS AMBASSADOR -- CONSULTATIONS ON LETELIER CASE"; GOC-OWNED "EL CRONISTA" ALSO HEADLINES THE STORY, BUT WITH A DIFFERENT SLANT-- "CHARGES OF US WITHOUT FOUNDATION."

4. EXCEPT FOR "EL CRONISTA", THIS MORNING'S STORIES LIMIT THEMSELVES TO REPORTING THE DEPARTMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT, A STATEMENT HERE BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND COMMENTS BY FOREIGN MINISTER CUBILLOS (CURRENTLY IN WASHINGTON FOR THE OASGA). THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S STATEMENT WAS ISSUED TO COUNTER RUMORS THAT AMBASSADOR LANDAU WAS BEING WITHDRAWN. REFERRING TO THAT REPORT, IT NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR LANDAU HAD INFORMED ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER VALDES THE PRECEDING DAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT HE WAS RETURNING TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS, AND THAT THE CHILEAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD JUST RECEIVED A PRESS RELEASE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE CONFIRMING THIS.

5. PAPERS HERE REPORT CUBILLOS AS SAYING IN WASHINGTON THAT THE GOC WAS NOT SURPRISED BY THE RETURN OF AMBASSADOR LANDAU FOR CONSULTATIONS AND THAT HE, CUBILLOS, BELIEVES THESE CONSULTATIONS WILL BE USEFUL INASMUCH AS AMBASSADOR LANDAU CAN EXPLAIN TO HIS GOVERNMENT THE THINGS THE GOC HAS EXPLAINED TO HIM. REFERRING TO REPORTED US UNHAPPINESS WITH CHILE ON THE LETELIER CASE, CUBILLOS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SANTIA 04771 241623Z

IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT CHILE ALSO HAS COMPLAINTS AND, FURTHER, SOME OF THE THINGS THE USG REQUESTS ARE NOT JUDICIALLY POSSIBLE.

6. "EL CRONISTA" CITES AN UNNAMED HIGH-LEVEL SPOKESMAN FOR THE GOC AS EXPRESSING SURPRISE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. ON THE SAME PAGE IT REPORTS GENERAL ENRIQUE MOREL (HEAD OF THE SANTIAGO ZONE OF EMERGENCY, AND THE MILITARY JUDGE OVERSEEING THE LETELIER INVESTIGATION) AS SAYING THAT IT IS NOT THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT THAT IS NOT COOPERATING IN THE LETELIER CASE, BUT RATHER THE AMERICAN. MOREL MADE THE SAME POINT ON TV ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 23. KENNEDY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, AMBASSADORS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL RECALL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANTIA04771
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780263-1092
Format: TEL
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780623/aaaaatva.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9a381782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SANTIAGO 4765
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2218950
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RETURN OF AMBASSADOR LANDAU FOR CONSULTATION ON LETELIER CASE -- RUMORS RIFE, LOCAL MEDIAL PLAY IT FAIRLY
STRAIGHT
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CI, US, (LANDAU, GEORGE W)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9a381782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014